

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NSF-01 HEW-04 ACDA-12 COME-00
EB-08 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /072 W
-----103432 072304Z /70
R 072238Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2758
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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DEPT PASS NSF FOR LEISE

DEPT FOR OES/APT/SEP FOR MORRIS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TGEN, UR, US
SUBJECT: US-USSR S&T AGREEMENT: MICROBIOLOGY - SUMMARY OF
USDEL VISIT (01.0705)

1. SUMMARY. US MICROBIOLOGY - PESTS (01.0705) DELEGATION
MADE A BY AND LARGE SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO THE USSR MAY 20 -
JUNE 4. USDEL PARTICIPATED IN A WELL-ORGANIZED AND
PREPARED SYMPOSIUM IN RIGA AND TOURED SOVIET RESEARCH
ORGANIZATIONS IN KIEV, LENINGRAD AND MOSCOW. AT THE
CONCLUSION OF USDEL VISIT, SOVIETS PROVIDED A PESTICIDE
FOR US TESTING. SOVIETS AGREED TO STUDY PROPOSALS FOR
ADDITIONAL COOPERATIVE PROJECTS THAT US TABLED DURING
VISIT. USDEL CHARACTERIZED VISIT AS MARKING A SIGNIFICANT
STEP FORWARD IN TRANSFORMING THIS HITHERTO MORIBUND ACTI-
VITY INTO A PROJECT OF SOME USEFUL SUBSTANCE AND MUTUAL
BENEFIT. FUTURE COOPERATIVE ACTIVITY OFFERS SOME
PRDMISE OF BENEFIT TO THE US PROVIDING US PARTICIPANTS
ADHERE TO THEIR DEFINED GOALS AND PERSIST IN INSISTING
THAT THE SOVIETS GO HALFWAY IN IMPLEMENTING PROJECTS.
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END SUMMARY.

2. A US MICROBIOLOGY (PEST CONTROL) 01.0705 DELEGATION
VISITED THE USSR MAY 20 - JUNE 4, TAKING PART IN A
SYMPOSIUM IN RIGA AND VISITING A NUMBER OF SOVIET
RESEARCH ORGANIZATIONS IN KIEV, LENINGRAD AND MOSCOW.
USDEL EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE SATISFACTION WITH THEIR

VISIT, WHICH THEY CLAIMED WAS THE MOST USEFUL AND SUBSTANTIVE OF ANY COOPERATIVE ACTIVITY SINCE THIS PROJECT'S INCEPTION SIX YEARS AGO. USDEL IN PARTICULAR NOTED

-- THE TRADITIONAL WARM RUSSIAN HOSPITALITY;

-- THAT THE SOVIETS, SCIENTISTS ESPECIALLY, WERE MORE OPEN THAN THEY HAD BEEN DURING PREVIOUS EXCHANGES;

-- ITS SATISFACTION WITH THE WAY IN WHICH THE RIGA SYMPOSIUM WAS CONDUCTED AND ORGANIZED. USDEL NOTED THAT THE SOVIET PRESENTATIONS WERE UNIFORMLY QUITE GOOD AND THAT SOVIETS PROVIDED TEXTS WILLINGLY; AND

-- THAT SOVIET SCIENTISTS SHOWED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN PROJECTS PUT FORWARD BY USDEL FOR FUTURE COOPERATION. SOVIETS PROMISED TO STUDY THESE AND RESPOND IN TIME FOR NEXT JWG MEETING, SCHEDULED FOR THIS COMING AUTUMN.

THE TURNING OVER BY THE SOVIETS OF THREE KILOGRAMS OF BOVERIN, AN ANTI-COLORADO-POTATO BEETLE PREPARATION FOR WHICH THE SOVIETS CLAIM GREAT SUCCESS REPRESENTED THE USDEL VISIT HIGH POINT. US SCIENTISTS TOOK BOVERIN SAMPLE BACK WITH THEM AND PLAN TO TEST IT AGAINST THE POTATO BEETLE THIS MONTH IN NEW YORK STATE. IN RETURN, THE US WILL PROVIDE THREE KILOGRAMS OF HIRSUTELLA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THOMPSONI, A PREPARATION PRODUCED BY ABBOTT LABS AND USED AGAINST THE CITRUS RUST MITE.

3. ON THE NEGATIVE SIDE, USDEL EXPRESSED DISSATISFACTION WITH THEIR SITE VISITS, WHICH THEY CHARACTERIZED AS SUPERFICIAL. USDEL WAS IN PARTICULAR UNHAPPY THAT THE SOVIETS HAD SCRUBBED, PRIOR TO USDEL ARRIVAL BUT WITH ITS KNOWLEDGE; A VISIT TO AN IMPORTANT LAB IN KISHINEV SOVIETS GAVE NO REASON FOR DELETION OF THIS VISIT FROM USDEL ITINERARY.

4. USDEL REPORTED THAT THE ORLOV TRIAL NEVER BECAME A TOPIC OF CONVERSATION DURING THE VISIT. ON ONE OCCASION, HOWEVER, V. I. SEREGIN, A SENIOR OFFICIAL IN MIKROBIOPROM, BROUGHT UP THE QUESTION OF WHICH SIDE BENEFITS THE MOST FROM THE BILATERAL S&T BILATERALS, CLAIMING THAT HE HAD RECENTLY READ IN AN AMERICAN NEWSPAPER A STORY IN WHICH A US SCIENTIST CHARGED THAT THESE EXCHANGES ARE ONE-WAY STREETS, BENEFITING ONLY THE SOVIET UNION. SEREGIN REPORTEDLY PRESSED THE OPPOSITE POINT AND ARGUED THAT THIS EXCHANGE SHOULD DEMONSTRATE TO ALL THAT SOVIET SCIENTISTS ARE IN NO WAY INFERIOR TO

THEIR US COUNTERPARTS. IN THIS CONNECTION, USDEL NOTED WITH SOME DISPLEASURE THAT SEREGIN SEEMED AWARE OF CRITICISM OF MICROBIOLOGY JWG ACTIVITIES VOICED PRIVATELY BY US SCIENTISTS AT MARCH 1978 COORDINATORS MEETING. OVER ALL, HOWEVER, USDEL WAS VERY PLEASED WITH THE RESULTS OF THE VISIT. THE SOVIETS, USDEL BELIEVES, SHOWED REAL WORTHWHILE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION, A GENERAL OPENNESS, AND THE PROVISION OF THE LONG-AWAITED BOVERIN SAMPLE. UNLIKE THE SITUATION IN YEARS PAST, USDEL BELIEVES

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NSF-01 HEW-04 ACDA-12 COME-00
EB-08 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 L-03
/075 W

-----103461 072305Z /70

R 072238Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2759
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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THAT NOW THERE SEEMS TO BE REAL PROMISE FOR AT LEAST LIMITED BUT SUBSTANTIVE AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL COOPERATION.

5. COMMENT. THOUGH USDEL ENJOYED A BY AND LARGE SUCCESSFUL VISIT, ONLY TIME WILL TELL IF THIS EVENT MARKS A REAL TURNING POINT IN MICROBIOLOGY JWG COOPERATION. USDEL'S SUCCESS DOES UNDERSCORE THE IMPORTANCE OF PERSISTENCE IN PRESSING HOME TO THE SOVIETS WHAT WE EXPECT FROM THEM AND PUSHING THEM TO MEET THEIR AGREED COMMITMENTS. SOVIET ANXIETY ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE S&T BILATERALS GENERALLY MAY ALSO, HOWEVER, HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THIS VISIT'S SUCCESS.

6. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS PROJECT SHOWS SOME PROMISE BUT TO REALIZE THAT US WILL HAVE TO CONTINUE TO PRESS THE SOVIETS
- TO TIGHTEN UP THEIR ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES;

- TO RESPOND QUICKLY TO US PROPOSALS FOR ADDITIONAL

COOPERATIVE ACTIVITY;

- TO MEET THEIR AGREED COMMITMENTS AND TO DO SO ON A
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MORE TIMELY BASIS; AND

- TO PROVIDE MORE SUBSTANTIVE SITE VISITS.

SHOULD THE SOVIETS FAIL TO CONTINUE TO MAKE AN EFFORT
TO MAKE THIS PROJECT WORK (AS THEY APPARENTLY DID SO
WELL DURING USDEL VISIT), CONCLUSION OF BOVERIN AND
HIRSUTELLA TESTS WILL PROVIDE A CONVENIENT POINT FOR
TERMINATION OF THIS ACTIVITY. MATLOCK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENT, SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION, BIOLOGY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MOSCOW12998
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780238-0723
Format: TEL
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780686/aaaacwel.tel
Line Count: 188
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c3365e90-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2455559
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US-USSR S&T AGREEMENT: MICROBIOLOGY - SUMMARY OF USDEL VISIT (01.0705)
TAGS: TGEN, TECH, UR, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c3365e90-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014